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UCLA Faculty Association

News and opinion from Dan Mitchell since 2009

Monday, June 23, 2025

The Money - Part 4

Berkeley will put more money into its athletics program to keep getting the subsidy from UCLA's programs that the Regents required. See below:

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The following message was sent to the UC Berkeley community by Chancellor Rich Lyons on Wednesday, June 11.

Dear Academic Senate Colleagues,

I am writing today to share an important update regarding our university's response to the ongoing changes in intercollegiate athletics. As some of you may know, a number of lawsuits filed against the NCAA and the leading conferences were consolidated into what is now known as the "NCAA House Settlement." The settlement was preliminarily approved by the court last October and was just finalized on June 6th. With this development, there will be major changes across college sports, beginning on July 1, 2025.

There are two key components to this settlement agreement. First, it will allow universities to provide up to $20.5 million annually to student-athletes through a revenue-sharing pool that will, in our case, be made up of Athletics revenues, philanthropic funds, and some campus funds. For institutions that participate in revenue-sharing, the funds will primarily be provided to student-athletes in the form of compensation for the use of their "Name, Image, and Likeness" (NIL).

The agreement's second component will eliminate NCAA team scholarship limits and establish, in their place, team roster limits, which will cap the number of student-athletes per team (over time, reducing the total number of intercollegiate athletes in our current sports at Berkeley from around 900 to around 800). At the same time, universities will be allowed to increase the number of scholarships allocated to each of their teams. While no decisions have been made about any increase in our own scholarship allocations going forward, I expect any adjustments from central funds to be minimal.

My decision-making process was informed by valuable input and guidance I received from numerous members of our community, including the Academic Senate. After considering the various trade-offs, I decided that we will participate in this new revenue-sharing model in order to provide our teams with the necessary investments and resources they need to excel. I have also decided that our campus contributions to the new revenue-sharing pool must be matched by incremental philanthropic support donated specifically for this purpose. To motivate and inspire this level of philanthropy, particularly in this transition year, I have committed to match gifts to our revenue-sharing pool up to a maximum of $6m for football, $1.5m for men's basketball, and $500k for women's basketball. The amount allotted to each team is a direct function of the revenue each currently produces, consistent with the revenue-sharing principle in the House Settlement.

This was a difficult decision in the midst of tumultuous times for higher education. I am convinced that failing to participate in revenue sharing next year would close off a number of valuable options for our university in the future. For example, ***after the collapse of the Pac12 conference last year, Cal was allocated an additional $25m per year, starting this year, for three years, funded in part by UCLA's sizable media contract from its new conference. The Regental discussion at the time indicated that this $25m per year could continue for an additional three years only if certain conditions were met. A failure to invest in revenue sports over the next two years would materially reduce the likelihood that the allocation will continue for a full six years.***

At the end of the day, the real question is how this all connects to our mission. From where I sit, alumni engagement is critical to our ability to support Berkeley's mission: They send us great students; they give our students internships; they teach for us, not to mention their role in the $7.3 billion capital campaign we recently completed. No single element of what we do has a greater, beneficial impact on alumni engagement than Intercollegiate Athletics, especially our football and basketball programs. Reasonable people can disagree on whether we get enough of what I refer to as "mission-advancing return" on our investment in Athletics. But there is no question that the return is important to all that we do together. (We just, for example, received the largest gift ever to Athletics, $26m, from a donor who in the last couple years gave the largest gift ever to the Haas School.)

The Council of UC Faculty Associations

- CUCFA Opposes AB 715
- Pause Trellix and Form a Working Group to Explore Cybersecurity Solutions
- Objection to AB 1217, AB 684, and AB 500 – Protecting UC's Institutional Autonomy
- Delay the UC cybersecurity mandate
- Our Letter of Support for SB-829

Remaking the University

- Liner Note 29: SCOTUS Chaos for Universities - 6/28/2025
- Liner Note 28. Hyponormalization of University Budgets - 6/17/2025
- Liner Note 27: Relentless Powers of the Grassroots Experts - 6/9/2025

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- Chronicle of Higher Education
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- UC-AFT

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While revenue-sharing is, at the moment, the best way to ensure our status and relevance at the highest level of intercollegiate competition, we must recognize that future developments can and likely will affect our actions and funding plans. I assure you that we will be carefully monitoring the situation, and we will continue to provide transparent reporting to the Senate in support of meaningful collaboration and partnership. I know that we share an expectation of greater fiscal accountability and responsibility when it comes to Cal Athletics' finances, including revenue generation.

I am grateful for Senate partnership over the past year as we have analyzed the changing landscape of intercollegiate athletics. In particular, I want to thank the CAPRA Subcommittee on Athletics that invested significant effort alongside the administration to analyze where we stand as a great research university in terms of athletics. That analysis included consideration of what our best options will be if sufficient success is not achieved in the coming years as the result of our investment in Athletics, up to and including a reduction in those investments.

While this message does focus almost exclusively on our investments in, and the finances of Cal Athletics, I want to assure you that I remain committed to upholding the highest academic standards for our student-athletes. By the same token, I am in the process of finalizing plans for new, significant investments in our research and education, particularly in the face of reduced federal funding. Those investments will be many multiples of the Athletics investments addressed here. I expect to share details about those plans in short order.

My continuing thanks to you all.

Fiat Lux,

Rich

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Source: https://news.berkeley.edu/2025/06/11/a-message-about-uc-berkeleys-response-to-changes-in-intercollegiate-athletics/.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: athletics, UC-Berkeley, UCLA

Straws in the Wind - Part 18

From Inside Higher Ed: *Two years after its Supreme Court victory against Harvard and UNC Chapel Hill, Students for Fair Admissions has a new target in its sights: Hispanic-serving institutions. [Last] Wednesday, the advocacy group joined the state of Tennessee in suing the U.S. Department of Education, arguing that the criteria to become an HSI are unconstitutional and discriminatory. The move is distressing HSI advocates, who hoped to see the institutions left out of the political fray.*

To qualify as an HSI, a college or university needs to have a student body comprised of at least 25 percent Hispanic students and enroll at least 50 percent low-income students, or more than other comparable institutions, among other criteria. No Tennessee institutions operated by the state meet the threshold and are thus prohibited from applying for HSI-specific grants—even though they serve Hispanic and low-income students, according to the Tennessee attorney general and SFFA. As a result, the federal designation criteria amounts to discrimination, and Tennessee universities and students suffer as a result, the plaintiffs argue...

"The HSI program is particularly egregious in terms of how it treats students based on immutable characteristics," Tennessee attorney general Jonathan Skrmetti, who's representing the state in the suit, told Inside Higher Ed. "It is just manifestly unfair that a needy student in Tennessee does not have access to this pool of funds because they go to a school that doesn't have the right ethnic makeup." ...

Skrmetti told Inside Higher Ed that "from Tennessee's perspective, this is not part of a broader strategy to influence education policy. This is about discrimination against Tennessee schools because of the ethnic makeup of their student bodies." ...

Full story at https://www.insidehighered.com/news/government/politics-elections/2025/06/13/tenn-lawsuit-puts-hispanic-servings-fate-line.

Note:

(252) UC-San Diego (248) community colleges (233) LAO (222) UC-Irvine (182) fund raising (163) UC-San Francisco (153) UC-Santa Barbara (153) UC-Santa Cruz (153) controller (143) faculty center (141) UC-Riverside (137) ballot propositions (132) CalPERS (120) UC-Merced (110) faculty pay (108) Master Plan (102) Yudof (89) UCRS retirement (61) Faculty Association at UCLA (59) parking (59) privatization (59) CalSTRS (50) UC Berkeley (34) copyright (30) campus climate survey (28) UCRS (21) Michigan Model (18) UC Merced (17) uc funding (16) State Contribution (14) UCOF (14) Regents (13) faculty recruitment (12) UC pay (7) graduate education (6) UC San Diego (5) UC Irvine (3) UCpolitics (3) teaching evaluation (3) UC Santa Cruz (2)

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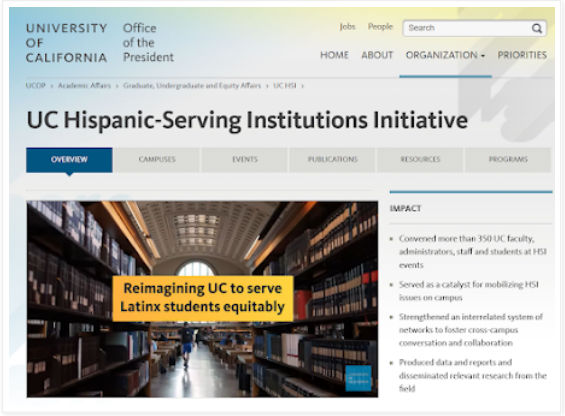
Contributors

- California Policy Issues
- Toby Higbie
- UCLA Faculty Association



UC Campuses with HSI Designation:

UC Irvine: Designated HSI.

UC Merced: Designated HSI.

UC Riverside: Designated HSI.

UC Santa Barbara: Designated HSI.

UC Santa Cruz: Designated HSI.

UC Davis: Emerging HSI.

UC San Diego: Emerging HSI.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: diversity, politics

Sunday, June 22, 2025

It is written...

From Inside Higher Ed: *...Many professors... are weighing a shift back to handwritten assignments in the hopes of preventing students from copying and pasting their work from ChatGPT and other generative AI tools, which students are increasingly using to complete their schoolwork. In a Reddit post about faculty moving to handwritten assignments, dozens of professors said they now require at least some assignments to be handwritten, while a small number said all the writing in their class is done by hand...*

Full story at https://www.insidehighered.com/news/faculty-issues/curriculum/2025/06/17/amid-ai-plagiarism-more-professors-turn-handwritten-work.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: miscellaneous

Straws in the Wind - Part 17

From The Daily Northwestern: *Two months after the Trump administration froze $790 million in federal funding for Northwestern, University leadership introduced additional financial changes to address challenges in the wake of the freeze. A faculty and staff hiring freeze and reductions to the permanent administrative and academic budgets are among the measures announced in a Tuesday message to the NU community — adding NU to the growing list of universities cutting spending in a time of uncertainty for higher education.*

In the message, University leadership stated NU has now reached a need to implement a "series of cost-cutting measures" to ensure fiscal stability, citing potential federal changes to increase the endowment tax, decreased international student enrollment and overall reduction in federal research funding. Other changes announced include future "modest" changes to employee tuition benefits, cutting merit salary increases, changes to NU's health insurance program, reduction in planned investments for buildings and additional non-personnel budget reductions...

Full story at https://dailynorthwestern.com/2025/06/10/lateststories/northwestern-administration-announces-hiring-freeze-academic-permanent-budget-reductions/.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: Northwestern U, politics

Saturday, June 21, 2025

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 21

From Inside Higher Ed: *In a hearing on Monday, a federal judge put off making a ruling on whether to continue blocking President Trump's proclamation banning Harvard international students and researchers from entering the country. The judge, Allison Burroughs of the District Court for the District of Massachusetts, agreed to decide within a week and extended an order to temporarily halt the policy until then...*

Ian Gershengorn, Harvard's lawyer, argued in court that the "impact of the proclamation is devastating to Harvard and its students," Reuters reported. Justice Department attorney Tiberius Davis argued that the president has "sweeping authority" under the Immigration and Nationality Act to bar certain foreign nationals from the U.S. Burroughs chose to take more time to consider her decision...

on May 28, Harvard received notice that it would lose its SEVP certification because of "compliance issues," including not adequately responding to a student records request from DHS** and failing to "maintain a campus environment free from violence and antisemitism." ...*

Full story at https://www.insidehighered.com/news/government/politics-elections/2025/06/17/judge-delays-ruling-trump-ban-harvard-foreign.

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*Student Exchange and Visitor Program.

**Department of Homeland Security.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 6:28 AM No comments:

Labels: diversity, Harvard, politics

Straws in the Wind - Part 16

From the Columbia Daily Spectator: *Secretary of Education Linda McMahon confirmed Tuesday [June 10] that the Department of Education has "discussed a consent decree" with Columbia and has "made great progress" with the University after the agency notified Columbia's accreditor on Wednesday that the University failed to meet accreditation standards. The Wall Street Journal first reported in April that President Donald Trump's administration had considered pursuing a consent decree for Columbia, a legal agreement that would give a federal judge authority to ensure Columbia's policy changes align with demands from the federal government. "It's been part of the negotiations," McMahon said of the possibility of a consent decree at a Bloomberg News event...*

In its notification to Columbia's accreditor, the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, the Department of Education cited its May finding that the University was in violation of Title VI for "deliberate indifference" toward antisemitism on campus since Oct. 7, 2023... A University spokesperson did not immediately respond to a request for comment about McMahon's Tuesday remarks. A spokesperson previously wrote in a statement to Spectator that the University "is aware of the concerns raised by the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights today to our accreditor, the Middle States Commission on Higher Education and we have addressed those concerns directly with Middle States." ...

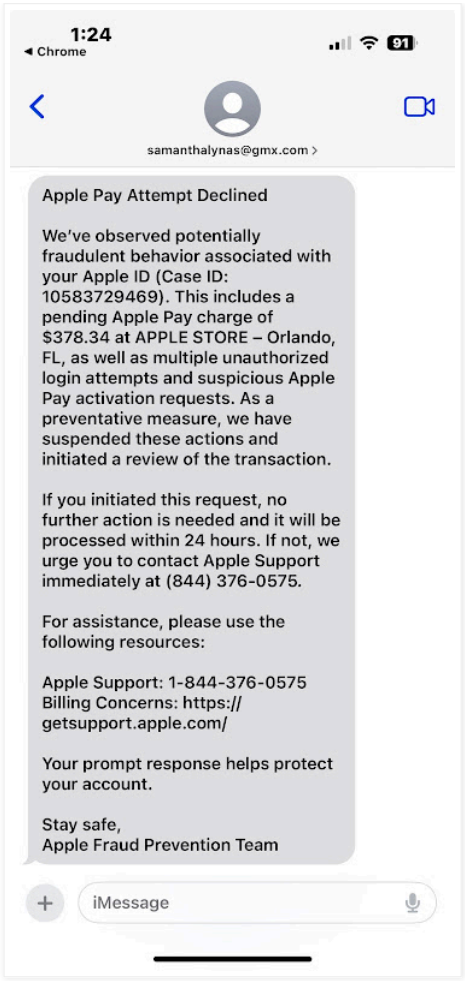
McMahon said she hopes that schools will regain funding before Trump leaves office. "We're certainly trying to move much more expeditiously," she said.

Full story at https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2025/06/10/mcmahon-says-department-of-education-has-discussed-a-consent-decree-affirms-that-columbia-has-made-great-progress-after-threat-to-accreditation/.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: Columbia, diversity, politics

An Apple Fraud a Day...



...will take your money away.

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Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:05 AM No comments:

Labels: email fraud

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